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Senator Gilbert Honors Veterans During Memorial Day Celebration

(LANSING) – More than 900,000 Michigan residents served in the armed forces to preserve our freedoms and those of others in foreign lands, and today Senator Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, and the Michigan Senate conducted a memorial ceremony honoring Michigan's past and present soldiers.

"This ceremony serves as a small token of appreciation for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country and her freedoms," Gilbert said. Our veterans and their families have willingly made great sacrifices to preserve liberty and the American way of life, and for what they have given, no thanks will ever be enough."

Joining Senator Gilbert during the ceremony was Mr. Jack Little, chairman of the Lapeer County Korean War Commemoration Committee and Retired Senior Master Sergeant of the United States Air Force (1948-1969). Recently, Mr. Little donated his Bronze Star medal to President George W. Bush to express his pride in the President's leadership to defend and protect the people of the United States of America.

"Mr. Little's actions signify his tremendous faith and respect for President Bush, and I commend his dedication and commitment to our great country," Gilbert said. "It was truly an honor and privilege to have Mr. Little with me today."

In paying tribute to our nation and its soldiers, Senator Gilbert recently introduced two resolutions that memorialize Congress to include funding for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) in the National Defense Authorization Act and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004.

For over a century, the American Red Cross has served as a link between the people of the United States and their Armed Forces. Significant financial resources are necessary to cover costs associated with AFES emergency communications and staff mobilization and deployment.

Senate Resolution 71 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 21 urge leaders in Washington, D.C. to see that these crucial services receive the financial support necessary to continue delivering much needed medical care and information. In the spirit of the Memorial Day ceremony, the two resolutions emerged today from the Senate Families and Human Services Committee and now await consideration from the full Senate.

(MORE)

The Senate Memorial Day Ceremony lasted approximately 45 minutes, and included a special tribute to our current troops, the performance of Amazing Grace and Taps, an acknowledgement of fallen soldiers, a military medley and processional of military branches and a moment of silence.

“On behalf of a grateful state and my Senate colleagues, I salute the brave men and women of Michigan who have answered our country’s call to service,” Gilbert said.